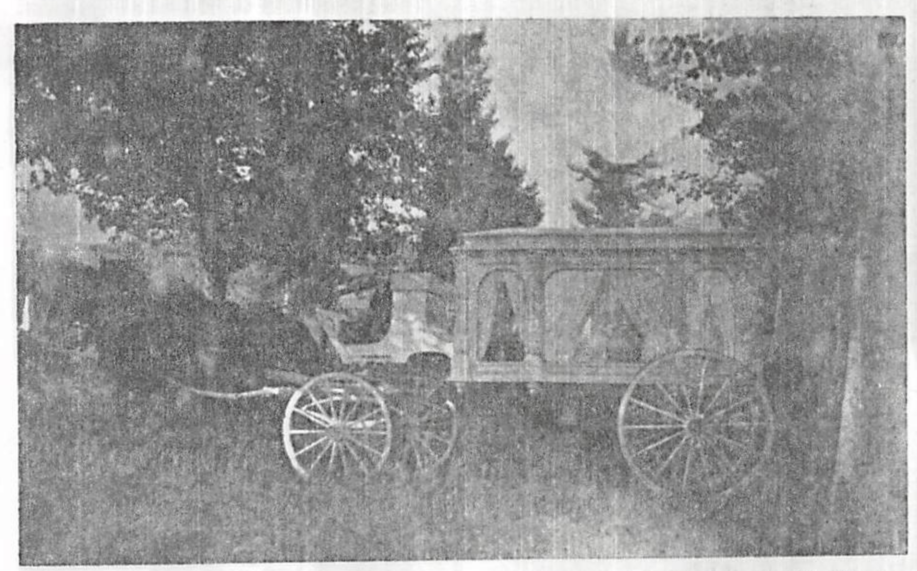
Alexander Family


Guy Alexander


Charles Alexander + Stella


Guy Alexander


Geo. Alexander   Taylor Alex.



This horse-drawn hearse was used throughout the valley before 1915 by J. W. Winterrose, undertaker.

the Joseph A. Rasband residence on Main Street between Second and Third North and remodeled it into a mortuary facility. Then in 1958 they constructed the modern mortuary they now operate adjacent to their home. Working with Mr. Olpin are his sons Joseph E. (Ted) and Guy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Still another vital service industry is the telephone company which has been part of Heber City since 1900.

Charles Alexander was the manager of the first independent telephone company in Heber, and his wife, Lavisa, was the first operator. They set up the exchange in their home in October, 1900, and serviced 12 telephones, mostly to doctors and professional men. Later the office was moved to a building between the Alexander home and the home belonging to Ammon Van Wagoner. Orpha Fraughton became the operator and she was succeeded after her marriage by her sister, Stella.

Subscribers to the telephone service increased each year, a few at first and then rapidly. There were 13 subscribers in 1901 and 18 by 1902. The growth until 1907 was as follows: 1903, 40; 1904, 48; 1905, 76; 1906, 128 and 1907, 177.

By 1907 the telephone exchange was moved to the old bank building and occupied the upstairs floor. Subscribers continued to increase until by 1910 there were 156 telephones in the city and surrounding area. In



Mortuary service to Wasatch County is provided today by the Olpin family. Shown here are, left to right, Richard Guy Olpin, Mrs. Violet Olpin, Joseph Olpin and Joseph E. (Ted) Olpin.

1911, when the Heber system had 170 installations, the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co. purchased the independent company. The service gradually increased until there were 399 telephones installed by the beginning of World War II in 1941. During the war it was not possible to make new installations, and so 125 orders for new phones had accumulated by the end of hostilities. These applications had all been filled by December, 1946, but in the meantime there were another 125 applications for still more phones. In 1955 there were 1,230 telephone installations, 1,374 in 1956 and nearly 1600 by 1960.

Until 1938 all the telephones were the magneto type, operated by a hand crank. In 1938 all but four community lines were changed to more modern equipment and these four lines have subsequently been converted to modern service.

Lewis Alexander succeeded his father as telephone manager and served until 1911 when he was followed by Sherrill Kimball. Mr. Kimball held the managership until 1914. Others were a Mr. Sullivan from 1914 to 1918; L. P. Vickers, 1918 to 1927; Tom Jones, 1927 to 1941 and Wesley C. Walton who has served since then.

There are now 14 operators, one chief operator, a service representative, a full time lineman, a part-time lineman and a custodian employed by the company in Heber. Six operators work during the day-time shift and in a day will handle some 11,000 local calls and 336 long distance calls, in addition to emergency work with the fire and police departments.

MINING

Mining also played an important role in Heber's business picture. While the mining operations of the county have not been physically located in Heber, some 60 per cent of the employees of Park Utah Mine at Keetley came from Heber and Midway. During the height of its operation, the mine was responsible for about $20,000 a month in payroll to residents of the two communities. The mining story is told in more detail in Chapter 16 and 32.

TANNERY AND SHOE SHOPS

Early pioneers in Heber were without the luxury of a shoemaker, and harness makers were without the facilities of a tannery to produce leather. However, in the spring of 1863 an experienced shoemaker named Gustaf Johnson from Sweden was persuaded to move to Heber and open a shoe trade. He set up shop on the home he built at the corner of First East and Second North. It was not until 1878, however, that a tannery was established. The cooperative project was established by businessmen of the community with John Muir as superintendent and John Holfeltz of Midway as the tanner.

The bark from oak, hemlock and pine trees was used in curing the leather, and was found in abundance in the canyons. However, preparing the leather properly was a long, tedious process and the demand for footwear was so great that usually half-tanned leather was taken from the vats and used. This resulted in loose, flabby shoes in wet weather and hard, stiff leather in dry weather. The tannery building was located near what is now 565 East 2nd North.

Mr. Johnson, the first shoemaker, obtained much leather from the old tannery and made excellent shoes and boots by hand. He continued his trade until he died in 1910. A grandson, Ralph Johnson, learned the trade in the shop and made shoes for friends or relatives, but never worked on a commercial basis.

Alfred Dahlman, another pioneer shoemaker, came from Sweden